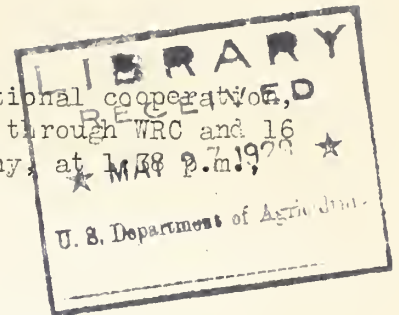


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VACATION IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS

A radio talk by L. C. Everard, in charge of educational cooperation, Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, through WRC and 16 stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, at 1:48 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday, May 20, 1929.



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Whether you live in Minnesota or Arkansas, in Colorado or the Carolinas, there is apt to be a National Forest within a day's journey of you. The 150 National Forests take in part of every mountain system in the Nation, from Alaska to Porto Rico and from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

I have no doubt that a good many of you, in making your plans for this summer's rest from the everyday grind are considering a trip to one of these natural beauty spots. There you may enjoy life in the open; and you may see much of the remaining wild life of the continent in natural surroundings - surroundings a good deal like the landscape that the American pioneers first viewed.

The Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture aims to make the forests of the greatest use to the largest number of people. Forest officers welcome travelers whether they come by motor, by wagon, on horseback, or on foot; whether they are campers, hunters, fishermen, or nature lovers. There is no entrance fee. The rangers enforce only a few simple, reasonable regulations necessary to perpetuate the forest resources for the use of succeeding generations.

Rules that visitors are asked to follow are merely precautions against damaging the forests or endangering health. Care with fire and good sanitation are expected of everyone, but these are only civilized precautions equally necessary in the woods and in the city. Permits for camp fires are usually required, but may be obtained free of charge from the Forest Supervisor. It is unforgivable negligence to leave a camp fire without putting it completely out.

A familiar Forest Service slogan is "Break your Match in Two." Try it and you will learn the reason why. The point is that to break your match in two comfortably you must first put it out - dead out so that there is no hot coal at the end.

During the dry season the leaves and litter on the forest floor are dry as tinder, and a forest fire may be started by the smallest spark. Matches or burning cigarettes tossed from moving automobiles have caused many a forest fire. Even if a cigarette falls in the middle of the road and apparently is safe, the next car that comes along with a tremendous "side wash" of air may whisk it off to the roadside, where the chances are that it will lodge in rotten wood, dry grass or leaves, or other inflammable material. Then we have another fire disaster in the newspaper headlines.

If you must have your smoke as you drive along the woodland roads, why not try a simple ash receiver fixed to your automobile dash? That solves the problem of what to do with the ashes from the pipe or the burning cigarette end.

Care with camp fires and smoking materials, then, and cleanliness about camp sites are all that the Forest Service asks from the vacationist. In return, we do all that we can for his benefit. We improve free public camp grounds as fast as money is appropriated for this work. Each year we add more improved forest roads and trails. If you want to make a permanent location in the forests for vacation purposes, you may obtain a special-use permit for a summer home, provided there is no conflict with timber growing, watershed protection or some other more important use of the land. Permits are issued to individuals or associations. In order to accommodate as many people as possible summer home sites are usually limited to one acre or less. We try, however, to avoid undue crowding, and to provide for persons who seek isolation and privacy. Term permits run for periods of from 5 to 15 years with privilege of renewal. The annual rental charge for lands occupied for summer homes varies from \$5 to \$25, depending on the location. The local forest officer in the district where you wish to locate will be glad to help you examine the prospective site before you file an application.

This year if you visit certain of the National Forests you will find that sections of great scenic beauty and grandeur have been newly set aside for recreational use. We call these "primitive areas." In these areas you will find the kind of landscape that greeted the eyes of the '49'ers and other pioneers. You will get a glimpse of the spacious natural stage upon which the great pageant of the conquering of the wilderness was played; you will see something of the plant and animal life familiar to the Indian, the explorer, the trader, and the trapper. The Forest Service feels that these areas are more useful for recreation and education than for any other purpose, and plans to keep them as nearly in their natural state as possible.

You will find on the National Forests the deep woods, the mountain fastnesses, and the open road and all that go with them. You will have freedom to enjoy yourself in your own way, and all the forest ranger asks of you in return is to help him keep the forest green and healthful so that you will find it unspoiled when you return next time, and so that your neighbor will have the same chance as you to enjoy its benefits.

Your nearest forest officer will welcome your inquiries on outing facilities, on routes, or on regulations for the use of the National Forests. A post card to the Forest Service, Washington, D. C., will bring you directions for getting in touch with the forest officer.